

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Exd. 5 L

10 75-2542
7 OCT 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Chief, Collection and Processing
Assessment Division

SUBJECT: Long-Term Estimating

1. Sometime ago [] and I looked over a paper drafted by [] that provided, apparently at your request, an estimate of the world in the mid-1980s, much of it drawn from an earlier study prepared by ORD. At [] request, PRD [] commented on the paper, expressing some of our reservations about both the estimate itself and the nature of the exercise.

2. On the assumption that this remains a matter of interest to you, I thought it might be useful to reiterate our concern and offer a suggestion or two.

-- Virtually anyone can compose a long-term estimate, and one estimate may be about as good as another if it tries, essentially, to ride a single track.

-- Partly for this reason, a paper looking far ahead should not offer flat statements concerning specifics (e.g., the degree of integration in the European Community). Rather, various alternative futures should be discussed.

-- For the purposes you seem to have in mind, a truly useful paper should emphasize the task of translating these alternatives into collection guidance.

3. If you plan to pursue this matter further, let me suggest that others be consulted. When it seemed likely that the DCI would want some kind of 25-year estimate for the Perspectives package, I suggested that [] a retired member of the Board of National Estimates, might be interested in trying his (experienced) hand at this. He might not be a bad choice for your purposes as well, and--the last I heard--is available for contract work.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

4. Please let me know if my remarks are pertinent and if you wish to pursue these matters further.



Chief, Product Review Division

25X1

Distribution:
O - Adrse
1 - IC/Registry
1 - PRD Chron
1 - RWS
RWS:mjs